

REMARKS

In order to overcome the Claims rejection 35 USC 112, the applicant has withdrawn all claims and has substituted claims 15-19 to more properly reflect the specifications of the present patent application.

In order to overcome the claims rejection 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Pappolla in view of Shapiro, the applicant would like to request reconsideration of this rejection for the following reasons:

1. There is no justification in Pappolla and Shapiro or in any other prior art separate from the applicant's disclosure that suggests these references be combined, much less be combined in the manner proposed.
2. Applicant suggests that the references take mutually exclusive paths and reach different solutions to a similar problem. For example, Pappolla discusses the important anti-oxidant effects of indole-3-propionic acid without considering any relation to carbonyl compounds in the diet as having a basis in the pathogenesis of, for example, fibrillogenic diseases. Shapiro does not discuss antioxidant effect of indole-3-propionic acid.
3. Even if Pappolla and Shapiro were to be combined in the manner proposed, the proposed combination would not show any or all of the novel physical features of claim 15 (new).
4. The novel physical features of claim 15 (new) produce new and unexpected results and hence are unobvious and patentable over these references. Applicant points out that the patent application teaches the use of a new chemical entity that results from adding poorly water-soluble indole-3-propionic acid to water, stirring, then adding water-insoluble chitosan. The chemical reaction resulting

from this produces a new compound never before seen. The compound is a conjugate chitosan-indole-3-propionic acid that has properties distinctively different from each of its constituent components.

5. The simple mixture or placement of indole-3-propionic acid with or in proximity to chitosan does not result in the formation of the new compound. The mixture of these two molecules must take place in water with stirring as disclosed in the present patent application. Thus even if combined physically such as a mixture of the powder of indole-3-propionic acid with chitosan powder, no new chemical compound results.
6. The present application teaches that the new compound resulting from the synthetic methodology disclosed in the application (that is, indole-3-propionic acid stirred in water, chitosan added, water stirred, filtered and then dried) has never been seen before and is completely water-soluble. In the applicant's view, there is no possible physical way that a combination of the references of Pappolla in view of Shapiro could result in the new water-soluble compound that is the subject of the current patent application.

The references and Differences of the Present Invention

The applicant will discuss the references and the general novelty of the present invention and its unobviousness over the references.

Pappolla discloses the use of known compound indole-3-propionic acid as an antioxidant. Pappolla does not disclose the use of chitosan to make a conjugate with indole-3-propionic acid to make it water-soluble.

Shapiro discloses among others, the use of chitosan, for example, to be used to trap carbonyl products generated from sugars in the food product during food processing. Shapiro does not disclose the compound that is the subject of the applicant's patent application.

Shapiro and Pappolla do not contain any justification to support their combination, much less in the manner proposed.

With regard to the proposed combination of Shapiro and Pappolla, it is well known that in order for any prior-art references themselves to be validly combined for use in a prior art 103 rejection, the references themselves (or some other prior art) must suggest that they be combined. (E.g. As was stated in In re Sernaker, 217 U.S.P.Q. 1, 6 (C.A.F.C. 1983) "Prior art references in combination do not make an invention obvious unless something in the prior art references would suggest the advantage to be derived from combining their teachings."

As was further stated in Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp., 5 U.S.P.Q. 2D, 1434 (C.A.F.C. 1988) "where prior-art references require selective combination by the court to render obvious a subsequent invention, there must be some reason for the combination other than the hindsight gleaned from the invention itself. ...Something in the prior art must suggest the desirability and thus the obviousness of making the combination. "

Conditional Request fo Constructive Assistance.

Applicant has amended the claims of this application so that they are proper, definite, and define novel chemical structures that are also unobvious. If, for any reason, this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. 706.03 (d) and 707.07 (j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I certify that on the date below I will fax this communication, and attachments, if any, to Group 1623 of the Patent and Trademark Office at the following number: 703.872.9306

Date 12/27/04

Inventor's signature: Rolland Hebert

Even if Pappolla and Shapiro were to be combined in the manner proposed, the proposed combination would not show any or all of the novel physical features of claim 15 (new).

If the combination Pappolla and Shapiro were justified, claim 15 (new) would still have novel (and unobvious) physical features over the proposed combination. In other words, the applicant's invention, as defined in claim 15 (new) comprises much more than a simple combination of indole-3-propionic acid and chitosan.

Specifically, claim 15 (new) clearly distinguishes applicant's invention from the proposed combination by virtue of the fact that the chemistry of the individual chemicals involved in the invention (that is, indole-3-propionic acid and chitosan) are changed by the synthetic methodology disclosed. Two poorly water-soluble compounds are rendered completely water soluble via the applicant's present invention. Neither Pappolla nor Shapiro knew of this compound resulting from the applicant's synthetic methodology. Thus Pappolla and Shapiro lack the essential element that is fundamental to the applicant's present invention.

Thus the applicant submits that the novel physical feature of claim 15 (new) is unobvious and hence patentable under 103 since it produces new and unexpected results over Pappolla and Shapiro or any combination thereof.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicant submits that the claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore, applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action the applicant respectfully solicits.